

premises by anybody, it means that it may be sold by somebody."

All the better class of people, religious bodies and temperance organizations, are protesting against this arbitrary interpretation and nullification of law by opinion, and it is hoped the agitation will be kept up until the plain intent of the law, according to its spirit and letter, will be enforced. Below will be found extracts from the editorials of leading religious papers on the question:

Cumberland Presbyterian

The public has been so opposed to the sale of liquor to the soldiers—not making a point that a soldier was the bar-keeper—that a call was made to abolish the system. Congress passed an act, and Attorney-General Griggs has given it as his opinion that the prohibitory section (section 17) does not prohibit the sale of intoxicants, but prohibits a bar-keeper from being detailed from the army! Are our Congressmen a set of incompetent men, or have they purposely made a law that is no law, but a delusion and a snare? Shall debauching the defenders of our national domain go on, and the army be made a back-door entrance to drunkenness? What was the act intended to accomplish—only the safety of the few men who might be detailed to sell liquors?

Pittsburg Christian Advocate

The Attorney-General of the United States has deliberately defied the will of Congress and set aside the clear intention of its act relating to the post canteen. There is absolutely no intelligent or honorable way to escape the clear provisions of that act. And yet the Attorney-General of the United States enacts the role of the miserable pettifogger in attempting to explain away its clear meaning. His argument—if it may be dignified by that name—is weak, to the point of childishness. We do not hesitate to say that nothing so puerile has ever come from the hand of an Attorney-General since the foundation of the Government. Unless it is corrected its political influences will be far reaching. The substantial people of the country will not submit to being thus trifled with.

Herald and Presbyter

A larger petition went up to Congress for the abolition of the canteen than for any other measure that was up for its consideration. The language of the act seems, on its face, to be as positive and clear as could be framed. The people will not submit to be duped or tricked in this matter without making themselves heard from and exhausting their guaranteed rights and privileges in petition and otherwise. A great wrong has been perpetrated in some way. The demand was made clearly and distinctly. Congress acceded to it, apparently, with readiness. Was there a mistake or a trick in the wording of the provision, or has the Attorney-General put an unfair, unwarranted, and wrongful construction upon it? The people have asked for bread, and, according to the Attorney-General, have only a stone; have demanded a fish and have received a serpent.

Michigan Christian Advocate

Let every paper loyal to law and order protest against the anarchistic nullification of the anti-canteen law by the Attorney-General, and hold the President responsible for carrying out the people's will, as expressed by Congress, as he has power to do by official order as Commander-in-Chief if he finds no way to overrule the Attorney-General's opinion.

The Independent

Every one knows what was the purpose of this law, and how it was discussed and carried thru Congress with the approval, not only of the temperance people, but also of the leading officers of the army. Did they intend to stop the sale of liquor in the canteens or not? Of course they did. Did they think the evils of the sale of liquor would be stopped sim-

ply by putting a civilian instead of a soldier behind the bar? Of course they did not. Common sense rejects this strange misinterpretation of the law.

Christian Intelligencer

The Attorney-General's decision is stirring the temperance and religious elements to activity, and already the National Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Reform Bureau have announced their purpose to begin an agitation of the subject in the churches thru-out the country, and to have them urge on President McKinley, with whom rests the responsibility of enforcing the law, that he carry out what they insist, despite the Attorney-General's opinion, was the plain intention of Congress.

Journal and Messenger

Probably no greater outrage upon wholesome law has been perpetrated during the present generation than that by Attorney-General Griggs in the case of the army canteen. The law, as enacted by Congress, prohibits the employment of any soldier "or any other person" in the sale of intoxicating liquors in connection with any army post, but the Attorney-General has ruled that the prohibition extends only to soldiers, and that a civilian may be so employed. It looks as tho the foul-mouthed Eagan had more influence with the Government than have all the other officers of the army.

Brief Notes

Our most important duty is an excellent substitute for our most ardent desire.

From millionaire to burglary is the short history of a well known Austrian, but we are not told whether it was a change of methods or a shrinkage of business.

A mother sacrificed her life to save her child from a trolley car, and yet there are blatant blackguards who bawl blasphemies against the idea of vicarious suffering.

A prominent suicide recently left behind him an explanatory note in which among other things he said: "I recognize no God, for there is none." A horrible creed brings forth its legitimate and horrible fruit. The insanity of unbelief descends quickly into hell. Over the soul of the godless man constantly hovers the black wing of despair.

Two remarkable and significant transactions have just been performed by government officials. One is the orders issued to the war ship Raleigh to go to Charlestown, South Carolina, and honor with its presence the reunion of Confederate veterans which will soon occur at that historic city. The other was an act of Commodore Philip of the battle ship Texas who ordered the word "Rebel" to be painted out of an inscription on an old trophy of the civil war at the Norfolk navy yard. "There are no rebels," said the valiant commodore. All hail to the era of real union and national brotherhood.

Mexico has just ordered the purchase in this country of 32000 military rifles. We have not heard how many delegates Mexico will send to the World's Peace Congress. Russia has also just extended a most oppressive military despotism over the duchy of Finland, which until now had always retained its liberties. The Russian delegates to the Peace Congress will probably read the news of this unprovoked aggression during one of the recesses. If the distinguished actors do not mind the laugh will come rather early in the play.

The extensive properties held by the Catholic Church in the Philippines appear to have passed into the hands of our government when the sovereignty of the islands was transferred to us by Spain, and now the bishops of that hierarchy are beseeching Uncle Sam to turn it over to them. We have no doubt that simple and actual justice would turn these rich holdings back to the poor people from whom they were wrung thru centuries of ecclesiastical cruelty.

Good men are not so difficult to find if you employ a good man to look for them. Some eye diseases should be treated at the heart.

Poisoned candy made several people very sick in an eastern town last week, which reminds us that the enemy of souls has quite an assortment of dangerous sweets which he uses in his business with great success.

It is stated, but doubtless with little foundation in fact, that the German Kaiser wishes to make his brother Henry a king over an empire carved from the helpless carcass of China. There are already plenty of carcass kings in this world, and yet there is little observable limit to the vain ambition of worldly greatness. It often happens that worldly greatness is a pedestal for the display of human littleness, while real greatness walks humbly in the shadow of obscurity. There are more uncrowned kings than we know, and many more than the crowned. But they will not always remain uncrowned.

We cannot conceive of a better world without better people; therefore go to work to improve your ———— We will not fill out the blank, as each one will do that to suit his own temperament. There are at least five significant words you may insert there.

There are fourteen veterans still on the active list who served thru the civil and Spanish wars. Theirs is a reputation of honor in the republic; but how honorable are the gray haired veterans in the army spiritual. Flippant conceit may sometimes or often show lack of reverence for these honorable gray hairs, but they are a crown of glory, and altho there may be more or less natural conservation beneath this crown, let us not be in so much haste with that "dead line" cruelty.

The gigantic whiskey trust is rapidly acquiring possession of the famous Kentucky bourbon distilleries. There are said to be two hundred millions dollars in the stock of this trust. One reason why righteousness does not prevail in the world as we could wish is the discreditable fact that righteousness is not organized on the immense scale which characterizes the enterprises of wickedness. Capitalize the Kingdom with the same millions, and the same efficient and eager men, and see what will happen in a decade.

The Italian government and the Pope are constant enemies, and the latter will not be represented at the Peace Congress because the government has refused in that case to send its delegates. This is a farce comedy on a considerable scale, and all the world is laughing. Unable to make peace at home, they undertake the task of universal peace. No wonder men of vision like Tolstoi regard the whole movement as a gigantic farce. Take for example the instructions issued to our own delegates. They are instructed to oppose a peace plan based upon the present relative military strength of the nations, as that would place us at a disadvantage, our present military strength being inadequate to cope with the more advanced military powers of the world. But if we are to have peace as the result of this much advertised conference, wherein will be the necessity for us to "cope" with other nations?

Stephen Crane has written a remarkable short story entitled, "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen," for *The Saturday Evening Post*, of Philadelphia.

In it the Managing Editor of the New York *Eclipse* starts off his war correspondent, "Little Nell," with the cablegram: "Take tug. Go find Cervera's fleet."

"Little Nell" starts out on the Johnson, "a harbor tug with no architectural intention of parading the high seas," wondering how, if he finds the cruisers, he is going "to lose them again."

His remarkable experiences on the Johnson and at Santiago, where "he takes his mackintosh and invades Cuba," and learns that "the emphatic time of history is not the emphatic time of the common man, who, thru-out the changing of nations, feels an itch on his shin, a pain in his head, hunger, thirst," . . . are told in the *Post* of May 6.